

News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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NOMINATIONS FOR SBA 2006 SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARDS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

CLEVELAND - Nominations are now being accepted by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for the 2006 Northern Ohio Small Business Person of the Year and other small business awards. Winners will be honored during the National Small Business Week celebration to be held next spring.

Awards will be presented in 10 categories. Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community may submit nominations for these prestigious awards. Nomination guidelines are available from the internet at <http://www.sba.gov/nominationsguideline.html>, or by calling SBA's Cleveland District Office at (216) 522-4180, ext. 215.

The deadline for submitting nominations to the Cleveland SBA office is November 4, 2005.

"The Small Business Person of the Year Award gives us a chance to recognize excellence and achievement in business. We will also honor all of the nominees and the entrepreneurial community for their contributions to our economy and our society," said Gil Goldberg, Director of the Cleveland District Office.

Nominees for Small Business Person of the Year must meet criteria which include staying power, growth in employment, increase in sales/unit volume, financial performance, innovation, response to adversity, and evidence of contributions to his or her community.

The other award categories include:

- Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year,
- SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year,
- Small Business Exporter of the Year,
- Minority Small Business Champion of the Year,
- Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year,
- Home-based Business Champion of the Year,
- Women in Business Champion of the Year,
- Small Business Journalist of the Year,
- Financial Services Champion of the Year.

Champion awards are presented to persons who have used their professional skills or personal talents to further public understanding and awareness of small business. Candidates must have taken an active role in creating opportunities to promote the interests of small business. A champion does not have to be an entrepreneur.